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**ECONOMIC INDICATORS, NEW SOUTH WALES
JUNE 1996**

MAIN FEATURES

EMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted number of employed persons in NSW was 2,774,600 in May 1996, an increase of 0.5% on the previous month. Nationally, employment rose by 0.4% over the same period.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in May 1996 was 8.0% in NSW and 8.5% nationally.

BUILDING APPROVALS

The seasonally adjusted number of new dwelling units approved in NSW in April 1996 was 3,363, an increase of 2.0% on the previous month, but 22.7% lower than in April 1995.

TOURISM

The number of guest nights for licensed hotels, motels etc. with facilities in NSW for the March Quarter 1996 was 5,663,100, an increase of 6.4% on March Quarter 1995.

FINANCE

The value of housing finance commitments for owner occupation in NSW in April 1996 fell by 14.0% from March 1996 but rose by 16.9% from April 1995.

**PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL
EXPENDITURE**

Private new capital expenditure in March Quarter 1996 for NSW on equipment, plant and machinery decreased by 7.3% since the previous quarter, but increased by 8.2% when compared to March Quarter 1995. Expenditure on new buildings and structures fell 17.3% from the previous quarter.

NOTES

This publication provides information on a wide range of economic indicators which are the latest available at the time of publication. In a number of cases, figures appearing in this summary are preliminary and are subject to revision in subsequent issues.

For detailed explanatory notes and definitions for the items shown in this publication, readers are referred to the specific ABS publications.

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Deputy Commonwealth Statistician

INQUIRIES:

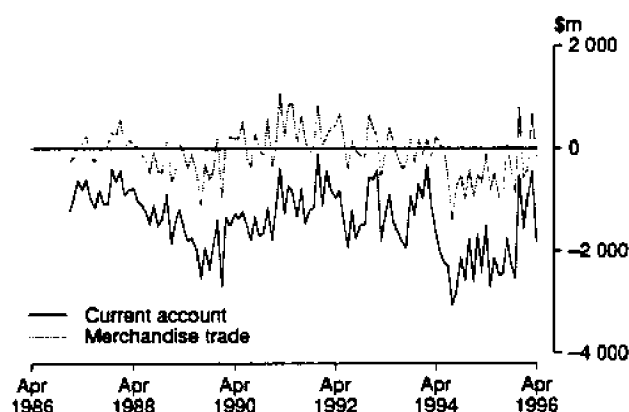
- *for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics*, contact Peter Bellhouse on Sydney (02) 268 4377 or any ABS office.
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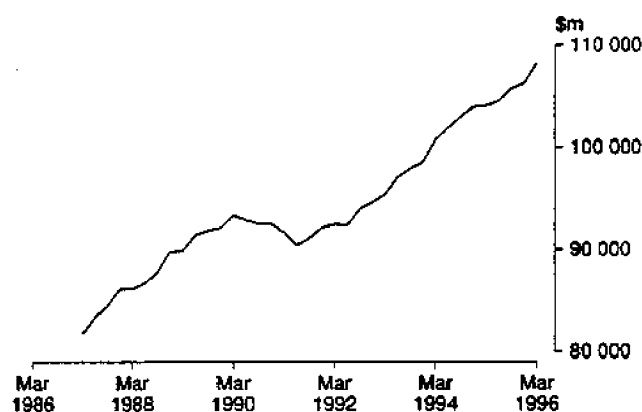
NATIONAL ECONOMY

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Change over prior period	Change over year			
National Accounts percentage change, average 1989-90 prices, (seasonally adjusted)—							
Gross non-farm product	%	Mar. qtr 96	1.7	3.3			
Gross domestic product	%	Mar. qtr 96	1.9	4.0			
Figures for preceding periods							
Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Latest figure	One period ago	Two periods ago	Three periods ago	Figure one year ago
Balance of payments—							
Merchandise exports	\$m	Apr. 96	6 132	6 777	5 860	5 896	5 601
Merchandise imports	\$m	Apr. 96	-6 321	-6 104	-6 264	-6 460	-5 698
Balance on merchandise trade	\$m	Apr. 96	-189	673	-404	-564	-97
Balance on goods and services	\$m	Apr. 96	-266	763	203	-400	-253
Balance on current account	\$m	Apr. 96	-1 822	-470	-919	-1 531	-1 493
Balance on current account (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Apr. 96	-1 995	-1 204	-1 459	-1 266	-2 160
Terms of trade for goods and services—							
Index (seasonally adjusted) 1989-90 = 100		Mar. qtr 96	96.0	93.9	94.0	93.2	92.7
Exchange Rates at end of period—							
\$US/\$A		Apr. 96	0.7854	0.7793	0.7635	0.7447	0.7299
Trade weighted index of value \$A May 1970 = 100		Apr. 96	57.1	56.8	55.5	54.7	49.6
Interest Rates—							
Prime rate (Source: Reserve Bank)	%	May 96	10.75-10.85	10.75-10.85	10.75-10.85	10.75	10.60-10.75

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AUSTRALIA (Monthly)



GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, AUSTRALIA SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (Average 1989-1990 prices, quarterly)

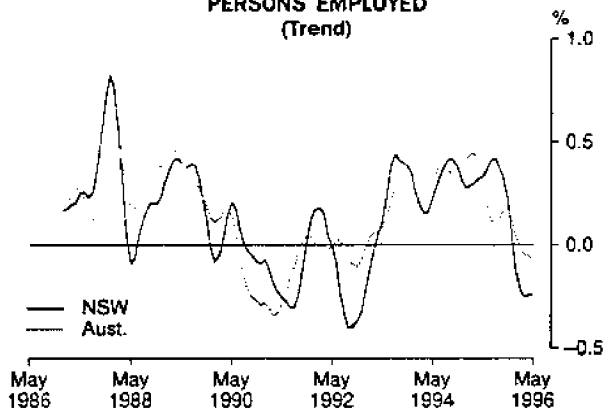


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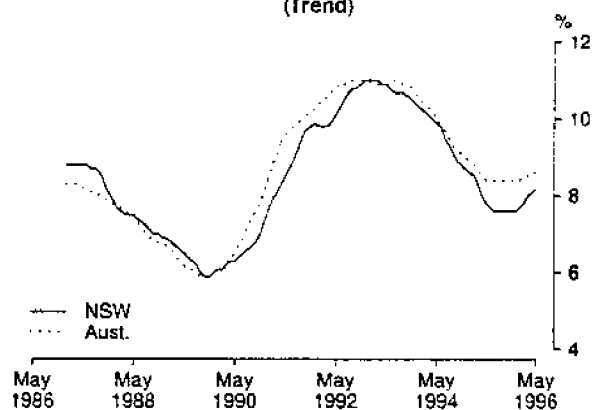
NEW SOUTH WALES IN RELATION TO OTHER STATES AND AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	Aust.
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	May 96	8.0	8.3	9.0	9.6	7.6	10.6	8.5
Percentage change from previous year—								
Employed persons	May 96	1.4	1.6	1.8	0.3	0.2	-0.3	1.3
Consumer price index: all groups	Mar. qtr 96	4.7	2.9	3.3	3.2	3.6	3.4	3.7
Average weekly employee earnings:								
full-time adult ordinary time (trend estimates)	Feb. 96	4.8	3.8	3.1	1.9	7.3	3.0	4.3
Retail turnover (trend estimates)	Apr. 96	10.8	4.7	4.3	1.8	8.8	4.5	7.0
New motor vehicle registrations	Apr. 96	4.9	12.8	-11.9	17.9	16.4	-0.1	4.9
Dwelling units approved	Apr. 96	-17.4	-0.7	-4.4	-10.6	-0.9	23.0	-6.4
Value of non-residential building approved	Apr. 96	-63.2	38.8	232.5	-69.2	-22.5	-24.5	-26.6
Value of all buildings approved	Apr. 96	-42.1	17.7	44.9	-48.7	-3.0	8.3	-13.8
Value of engineering construction work done	Dec. qtr 95	7.4	3.7	6.2	-0.9	96.1	69.8	15.6
Room occupancy rate in licensed hotels and motels etc.	Mar. qtr 96	3.9	3.2	-1.2	3.2	0.5	-1.6	1.5
Actual private new capital expenditure	Mar. qtr 96	9.8	11.8	5.1	-15.9	3.9	-20.0	7.4

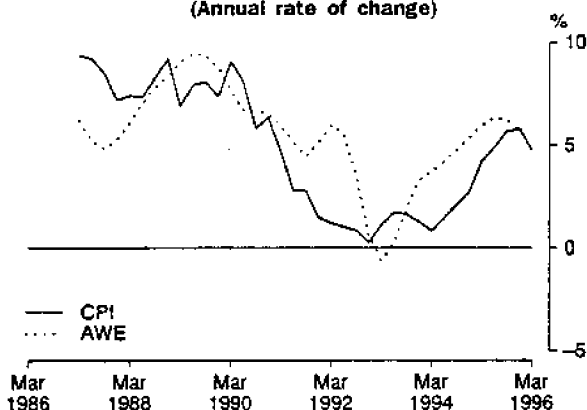
MONTHLY CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED (Trend)



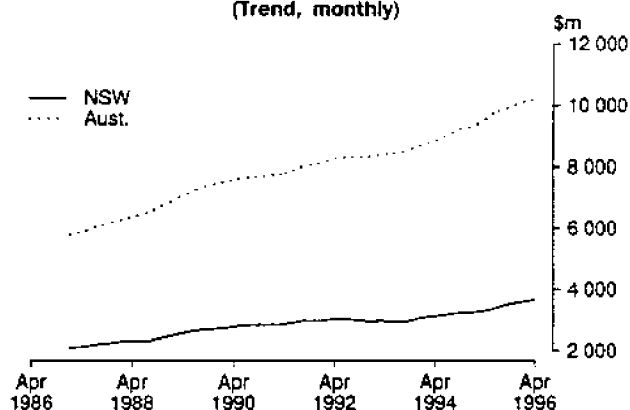
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (Trend)



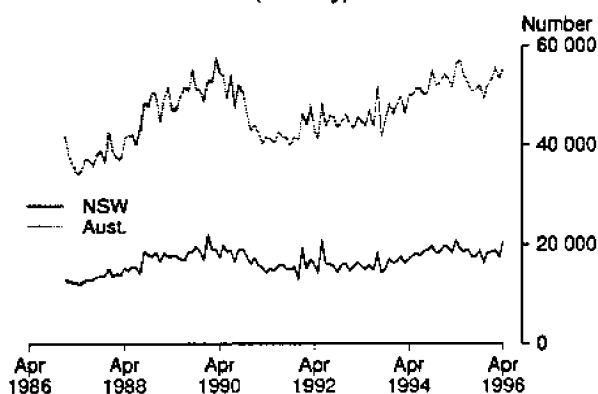
PRICES AND EARNINGS, NSW (Annual rate of change)



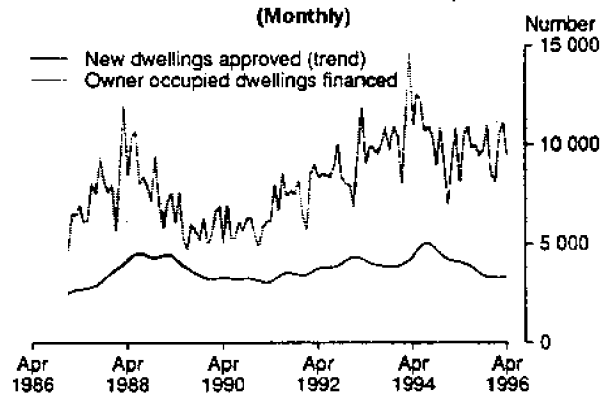
RETAIL TURNOVER (Trend, monthly)



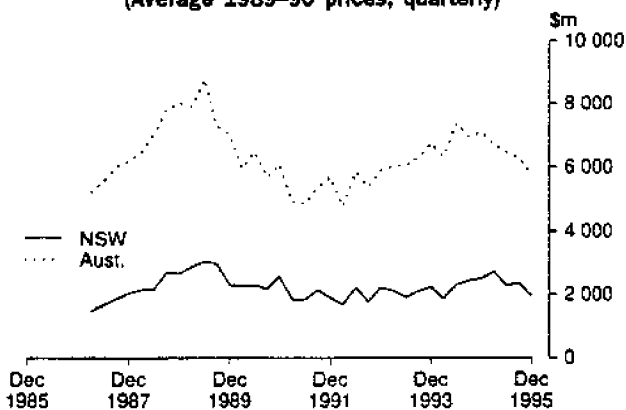
NEW MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED (Monthly)



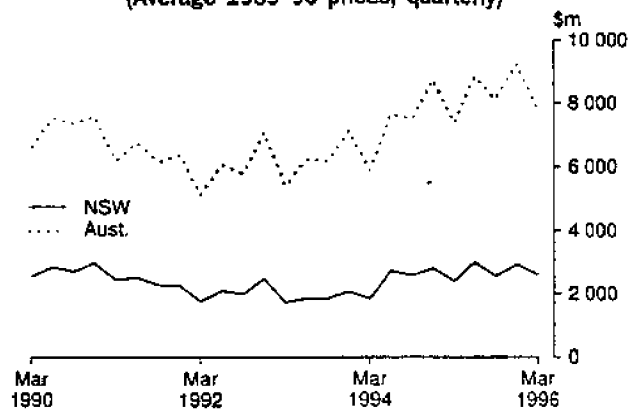
NEW DWELLINGS APPROVED AND HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, NSW (Monthly)



VALUE OF ALL BUILDINGS COMMENCED (Average 1989-90 prices, quarterly)



PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (Average 1989-90 prices, quarterly)



Indicator	Unit	Latest period	New South Wales			Australia		
			Latest figure	Change from prior period	Change from same period prior year	Latest figure	Change from prior period	Change from same period prior year
				%	%		%	%
Population								
Estimated resident population	'000s	Dec. qtr 95	6 155	0.33	1.26	18 174	0.33	1.35
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	'000s	May 96	4 857	0.14	1.35	14 322	0.14	1.52
Labour Force								
Employed persons—full-time (original series)	'000s	May 96	2 111	-0.8	0.3	6 253	0.4	1.0
—total (original series)	'000s	May 96	2 786	0.6	1.4	8 337	0.7	1.3
—total (seasonally adjusted)	'000s	May 96	2 775	0.5	1.4	8 325	0.4	1.3
Unemployed persons—(original series)	'000s	May 96	232	-5.7	2.3	758	-4.4	0.6
—(seasonally adjusted)	'000s	May 96	242	-4.7	2.5	774	-3.9	0.8
Labour force (seasonally adjusted)	'000s	May 96	3 016	0.0	1.5	9 099	0.0	1.3
Participation rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	May 96	62.1	-0.1	0.2	63.5	-0.1	-0.3
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	May 96	8.0	-4.7	1.0	8.5	-3.9	-0.4
Job vacancies	'000s	Feb. 96	27	5.5	11.2	64	13.9	11.7
Weekly paid overtime per employee (a)	hours	Feb. 96	7.3	4.0	0.7	7.1	3.0	-2.6
Average Weekly Employee Earnings								
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings (trend estimates)	\$	Feb. 96	694.90	0.7	4.8	664.80	0.8	4.3
All employees total earnings (trend estimates)	\$	Feb. 96	590.70	1.0	3.8	558.40	0.7	2.4
Industrial Disputes—Working days lost	'000s	Feb. 96	21.5	710.6	233.4	44.9	124.3	-14.9
Consumer Price Index, All Groups 1989-90=100		Mar. qtr 96	119.1	0.7	4.7	119.0	0.4	3.7
Retail Turnover (trend estimates)	\$m	Apr. 96	3 689	0.3	10.8	10 212	0.2	7.0
New Motor Vehicle Registrations (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Apr. 96	20 626	18.2	-1.9	55 351	3.6	-1.5
Passenger vehicles (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Apr. 96	17 680	19.1	-1.7	45 803	3.0	-0.9
Other motor vehicles (excl. motor cycles) (seas. adj.)	No.	Apr. 96	2 946	13.4	-3.5	9 547	6.6	-4.2
Production								
Clay bricks (seasonally adjusted) (b)	million	Apr. 96	50.6	-1.0	-17.6	119	1.6	-20.7
Electricity (seasonally adjusted)	million kWh	Apr. 96	5 262	-1.1	2.8	14 221	0.4	2.0
Gas (seasonally adjusted) (b)	terajoules	Apr. 96	8 399	9.6	-7.7	54 226	2.8	-0.5
Overseas Trade								
Imports	\$m	May 96	3 051	6.6	-0.7	6 722	4.3	-2.7
Exports, Australian produce	\$m	Apr. 96	1 249	-20.3	-4.9	5 932	-8.7	10.6
Tourism								
Overseas visitor short-term arrivals	'000s	Mar. 96	174	1.4	26.2	366	-6.9	16.6
Resident overseas short-term departures	'000s	Mar. 96	101	41.3	25.6	236	41.1	21.2
Licensed hotels, motels etc. with facilities—								
Guest nights	'000s	Mar. qtr 96	5 663.1	1.6	6.4	16 092.9	-0.5	4.0
Room occupancy rate	%	Mar. qtr 96	61.1	1.7	3.9	59.0	-1.2	1.5
Building								
Approvals—								
Dwelling units (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Apr. 96	3 363	2.0	-22.7	10 421	0.0	-13.3
Value of new residential building (seasonally adj.)	\$m	Apr. 96	346	11.4	-8.7	1 020	7.9	-9.0
Value of non-residential building	\$m	Apr. 96	267	-0.9	-63.2	840	10.7	-26.6
Value of all building	\$m	Apr. 96	674	-0.1	-42.1	1 989	5.0	-13.8
Commencements—								
New dwelling units	No.	Dec. qtr 96	9 248	-17.2	-30.2	30 089	-10.8	-34.2
Value of new residential buildings (c)	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	902	-28.3	-35.7	2 787	-12.7	-31.9
Value of non-residential building (c)	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	817	-5.5	7.2	2 457	-3.3	5.2
Value of all building (c)	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	1 942	-18.0	-22.3	5 788	-7.9	-18.5
Value of work done in period (c)	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	2 402	-6.3	-2.7	6 846	-2.6	-7.5
Engineering Construction								
Private contractors—								
Value of work commenced	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	306	-42.7	-72.1	1 673	-17.1	-20.5
Value of work done	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	660	-12.2	5.6	2 154	15.5	21.8
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	990	-19.1	-34.8	3 618	3.1	6.7
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	643	28.9	9.4	1 649	16.5	8.4
Finance								
Housing finance for owner occupation—secured								
commitments to individuals by significant lenders	\$m	Apr. 96	1 395	-14.0	16.9	3 751	-14.5	20.4
Personal finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	Apr. 96	869	-0.1	25.2	2 691	2.0	29.9
Commercial finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	Apr. 96	5 031	-8.4	53.1	11 400	-4.9	40.8
Savings balances at end of month—								
All banks (d) (Source: Reserve Bank)	\$m	Apr. 96	124 518	0.5	(e)	279 788	0.3	10.4
Building societies	\$m	Apr. 96	3 697	0.1	10.7	11 568	0.1	-2.5
Credit unions	\$m	Apr. 96	5 910	-0.3	13.5	13 405	0.0	13.0
Actual New Fixed Capital Expenditure (f)								
New buildings and structures	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	2 793	-9.8	9.8	8 387	-13.9	7.4
Equipment, plant and machinery	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	646	-17.3	15.6	2 224	-29.4	2.4
	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	2 148	-7.3	8.2	6 163	-6.5	9.4

(a) Average weekly overtime hours for those employees who were paid for overtime. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Average of 1989-90 prices. (d) Average of weekly deposit balances. (e) Not available due to revisions only being done nationally. (f) By private enterprises.



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